

**Organization of American States  
Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment**

**Reduction of the Vulnerability of the Social and Economic Infrastructure to Natural Disasters in the Americas**

**Hemispheric Mandates  
(Revision July 10, 2002)**

**1. Third Summit of the Americas  
Quebec, Canada, April, 2001**

**Declaration of Quebec City**

The Heads of State and Government of the Americas:

We commit to strengthening hemispheric cooperation and national capacities to develop a more integrated approach to the management of natural disasters. We will continue to implement policies that enhance our ability to prevent, mitigate and respond to the consequences of natural disasters. We agree to study measures to facilitate timely access to financial resources to address emergency needs.

**Action Plan**

**8. DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

**The Governments:**

Recognizing the need to develop, implement and sustain shared comprehensive disaster management strategies and programs to reduce the vulnerability of our populations and economies to natural and man-made disasters and to maintain or quickly restore minimum levels of consumption, income and production at the household and community levels in the aftermath of disasters, including irregular population settlements; acknowledging in this regard the need to expand the community of stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels engaged in the formulation of early warning systems, the management of risk and response operations in the event of disasters and integrated sustainable development strategies:

Develop the capacity to forecast, prepare for and mitigate the potential impacts of natural and man-made hazards; promote vulnerability reduction; adopt and enforce better building codes and standards; ensure appropriate land-use practices; inventory and evaluate the vulnerability of critical facilities and infrastructure; estimate climate change variability and sea-level rise and assess their possible impacts; and in pursuit of the above, create the requisite legal framework and establish the cooperative mechanisms to access and share advances in science and technology and their application in the early warning, preparedness for and mitigation of these hazards;

Promote the exchange of information on the vulnerability of infrastructure exposed to disasters as well as the early warning capacity, particularly in the border areas of the countries of the Americas, in order to design specific prevention measures in the fields of engineering and legislation with the aim of reducing the socio-economic impact of natural disasters;

Establish or strengthen, where appropriate, partnerships with all relevant actors, including the private sector, technical professional associations, regional institutions, civil society, educational and research institutions and other multilateral coordinating agencies such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in the development and implementation of disaster management policies and programs at the national and community levels, and promote greater awareness and effective integration of these policies and programs among national policy makers, local authorities, communities and media, and promote the insurance and reinsurance of the social and economic infrastructure as well as the decentralization of information and decision-making;

Promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the combat against inappropriate practices in the exploitation of natural resources and unsustainable patterns of consumption, including the problems of waste management, which increase the vulnerability of the people to natural disasters;

Promote the development of telecommunications for humanitarian assistance; actively encourage greater use and interoperability of telecommunications and other technologies and information systems that allow the observation and monitoring of different natural phenomena; use early warning systems such as remote sensing imagery, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based data necessary to address and prevent emergencies; promote the compatibility of these systems in the planning and response to emergency operations among governments, specialized agencies, relevant international organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and, in this spirit, consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as soon as possible and as the case may be, the *Tampere*

*Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations;*

Establish information networks with the involvement of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and other relevant regional and international organizations to exchange scientific and technological knowledge and experiences; encourage further regional and subregional action to reduce risks and improve response to natural disasters; promote joint research and development technologies and contribute to strengthen coordination of national prevention and response agencies in natural disasters; to achieve this, draw on the work of ECLAC on the improvement, up-dating and implementation of its damage assessment methodology and continue to promote natural disaster mitigation and risk reduction awareness and preparedness;

Consider the creation of a hemispheric system for prevention and mitigation of disasters that would include, among others, a specialized database containing the best information available on the characteristics, experiences, strengths and weaknesses of national and regional agencies responsible for disaster prevention and mitigation and provide a new framework for technical cooperation and research aimed at creating a hemispheric culture of prevention and solidarity;

Adopt and support, as appropriate, initiatives aimed at promoting capacity building at all levels, such as the transfer and development of technology for prevention – risk reduction, awareness, preparedness, mitigation – and response to natural and other disasters, as well as for the rehabilitation of affected areas;

Promote mechanisms that incorporate risk management and risk reduction methods in public and private development investments;

Convene within a year a hemispheric meeting on disaster preparedness and mitigation with the support of the IACNDR and the participation of a wide range of government entities, regional and MDBs, private entities, NGOs and the research, scientific and technical communities, to discuss and develop cooperative efforts to facilitate implementation of Summit mandates on disaster management;

Request the IDB to undertake a feasibility study in partnership with the OAS, the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and other relevant inter-American organizations, as well as the private sector, including insurance companies, on measures to reduce and/or pool risk in a manner that results in reduced premiums on catastrophic insurance, and mechanisms to facilitate contingent re-construction financing and the immediate release of funds to resolve urgent needs of the affected country; this study would examine the relationship between re-insurance and national and community disaster management capacities, as well as trends toward dis-investment and job losses in those economic sectors requiring costly catastrophic insurance coverage and the role such measures might play in this regard; share with the private sector experiences in the development and application of risk management tools such as risk transfer instruments, vulnerability assessment methodologies and risk reduction incentives for the private sector;

**2. OAS/General Assembly  
OAS Natural Disaster Reduction  
AG/RES. 1885 (XXXII-O/02)**

Endorses the recommendations of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction, which are identified for urgent, intermediate and long-term action and are contained in document CP/CSH-433/02 rev.1. Urges to the member states to give priority to reducing vulnerability and loss of life. Encourage the increases used of market-based instruments in order to minimize the diversion of resources by sharing rehabilitation and reconstruction cost and risk reduction. Request the IACNDR to begin immediately its work on the Strategic Plan on Disaster Response and Vulnerability Reduction.

Request the IANDR to: urge disaster-affected member states and other relevant entities to adopt, to the greatest extent possible, the recommendations put forth by those hemispheric organizations which have made assessments; stimulate the active participation of relevant inter-American agencies and programs in the four thematic working groups established by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Task Force; play a proactive role in the provision of technical expertise in disaster coordination to the permanent missions to the OAS and the ministers of foreign affairs in the member states; devote a specific session to the discussion of regional civilian-military cooperation issues in disaster preparedness and response to assure that civilian leadership is strengthened; continue stimulating the active participation of the relevant inter-American agencies and sub-regional programs in the three IACNDR working groups so as to improve information exchange in the region; study and propose measures aimed at strengthening activities undertaken under the White Helmets Initiative established within the OAS to assist countries affected by natural disasters; and study and propose to the preparatory body of the Special Conference on Security the measures that it may consider appropriate for strengthening cooperation among member states on this issue, for final consideration by the special conference.

Instructs the Permanent Council to revise the FONDEM Statutes and assign to the IACNDR the functions of coordinating aid in the face of natural disasters, establishing cooperative relations and coordinating of resources and emergency plans with the UN and other institutions.; to consider planning and launching an inter-American mass media education campaign on appropriate humanitarian assistance and donations, aimed at offering an opportunity to seek consensus between the governments and the NGO community.

**3. OAS/CIDI**

**The Inter-American Council for Integral Development.**

**CIDI/CIDS/RES.4 (III-0.20)**

Encourages all member states and the General Secretariat to include the issue of natural hazard vulnerability reduction in preparations and participation in the Johannesburg Conference. Request the General Secretariat through its sectoral units and offices as well as its participation in the IACNDR, and through the IACD, to encourage all sectors to use ministerial forums, and hemispheric and regional technical meetings to prepare and discuss periodic reports on achievements in reducing the vulnerability of populations and economic and social infrastructure to natural disasters. Recommends that the IACNDR, taking into account the results of the CIDS III Santa Cruz plus the 5 meetings and the Johannesburg Conference, inform the CIDS before its next meeting on the progress made in incorporating natural disaster vulnerability reduction. Urges member states to set goals for measurable vulnerability reduction to natural hazards as part of their national sustainable development programs. And request the General Secretariat to continue to include in its activities related to sustainable water resource management, coastal zone management, frontier and border area development, and trade corridor development, activities related to vulnerability reduction to natural disasters.

**4. OAS/General Assembly**

**OAS Natural Disaster Reduction and Response Mechanism**

**AG/RES. 1803 (XXXI-O/01)**

Adopting the recommendations by the Permanent Council with respect to the Report of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR). Urging the member states to study and where appropriate to apply those IACNDR recommendations set out in its Report (CP/doc.3324/00 rev. 1) that specifically address member states. Requesting the Permanent Council to continue studying, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the recommendations made by the IACNDR as set out in its said Report, with due consideration to the financial implications of any of these recommendations for the Organization, and to take any decisions and adopt any course of action it may deem fit with respect to the furtherance of those recommendations, no later than December 15, 2001. Requesting the IACNDR to continue its work in accordance with the Statutes adopted by the Permanent Council and to report, through the Secretary General, to the Permanent Council prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly. Renewing its instructions to the Secretary General to support the work of the IACNDR both in his capacity as Chair of the IACNDR and through the internal General Secretariat committee on natural disasters, so as to assist the IACNDR in its activities and to secure the financial resources necessary for the functioning of the IACNDR. Instructing the Secretary General to establish, in coordination with the IACNDR, an information network to exchange scientific and technical knowledge and experiences in order to strengthen coordination of national prevention and response agencies in natural disasters. Requesting the Secretary General to convene, in accordance with the relevant mandates of the Third Summit of the Americas, a hemispheric meeting on disaster preparedness and mitigation prior to the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly. Instructing the Secretary General to cooperate with the Inter-American Development Bank in a feasibility study on measures to reduce the cost of catastrophic insurance within member states, in accordance with the relevant mandate of the Third Summit of the Americas, and to make this study available to the IACNDR for its consideration and further action. Instructing the Permanent Council to report to the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly on compliance with this resolution. Requesting that the Secretary General transmit this resolution to all the members of the IACNDR.

**5. OAS/General Assembly**

**OAS Natural Disaster Reduction and Response Mechanism**

**AG/RES. 1755 (XXX-O/00)**

Instructing the Secretary General, as Chairman of the IACNDR, to continue to support the activities of the IACNDR, especially through its three working groups, with the aim of securing the necessary financial resources, ensuring greater preparedness, and reducing vulnerability to the extent possible within the countries of the Hemisphere. Asking to keep the Permanent Council informed of the on-going work of the IACNDR. Requesting the Secretary General to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-first regular session a report on the implementation of this resolution.

**6. The Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS)**

**Reduction of Vulnerability to Natural Hazards in the Americas**

**CIDI/CIDS/RES. 5 (II-0/99)**

The Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), working under the auspices of Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), called for economic and social sector reports on achievements in natural

disaster reduction, and for the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) to inform the CIDS regarding the policies and strategic actions of the Inter-American system to promote sustainable development in the Americas in the area of natural disaster reduction.

**7. OAS/General Assembly  
OAS Natural Disaster Reduction and Response Mechanisms  
Resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-0/99)**

Creation of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction chaired by the Secretary General of the OAS and as members the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Secretary General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Director General of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Secretary General of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH).

**8. Bolivia Summit Conference on Sustainable Development  
Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Americas  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, December, 1996**

**Initiatives for Action**

The governments will complete the following initiatives:

**Initiative 6.** Promote the inclusion of ...mitigation in national development plans... and promote the establishment of appropriate construction codes that include regulatory and enforcement mechanisms through the sharing of technical information and expertise.

**Initiative 43.** Promote the exchange of information and experiences among the mayors of the Hemisphere regarding the most appropriate practices for urban environmental stewardship, promotion of non-polluting consumer practices, sustainable transportation, environmental impacts and sewage treatment.

**Initiative 45.** Foster the inclusion of sustainable development in the plans for urban development, including mechanisms for evaluating environmental impacts.

**Initiative 57.** Cooperate in the development, strengthening and implementation of pollution prevention programs and regional disaster plans, including contingency and response arrangements to combat the impact on water sources, oil spills and other forms of pollution which have an impact on water sources.

**9. Second Summit of the Americas  
Action Plan  
Santiago, Chile, April, 1998**

**III. Economic Integration and Free Trade**

The Governments:

- Will apply the mechanisms of science and technology in order to mitigate the damages caused by the effects of "El Niño" and other natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, earthquakes and floods, and the impact on the economy and on the ecosystems, based on a better capability for prediction, prevention and response; better investigation and methods of training for the prediction of natural disasters; and the application of science and technology to confront the effects of climate change on health, agriculture and water. In this sense, they will emphasize the cooperation in investigation and the exchange of information regarding "El Niño" and other natural disasters.

**10. Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS)  
OAS/Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) (CIDI/Res. 11)  
OAS/Assembly General AG/RES. 1513**

**III. Objectives**

In order to comply with the mandates of the Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994) and the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Bolivia, 1996), and to make a significant contribution to the implementation of Program 21 and to the fulfillment of other agreements produced by the Rio Conference and by that on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the OAS will give priority to:

- a. Serving as a hemispheric forum for promoting dialogue and coordinating advances in the area of sustainable development.

- b. Supporting the exchange of information on matters relating to sustainable development and facilitating the direct exchange of experiences among countries, institutions and organizations that are working in these areas.
- c. Acting as a partner in cooperation matters relating to sustainable development in areas where it has comparative advantage.

#### **IV. Priority Activities at the Sectoral Level**

##### **4.2 Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry**

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

###### **a. Serve as a regional forum for:**

- iii) Facilitating the adoption of agreements, strategies and integrated politics, in coordination with other institutions like the IICA, UNDP and FAO, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society. Special emphasis should be given to the zones and countries affected by processes of desertification, within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

###### **c. Promote cooperation for:**

- iv) Strengthening activities in support of the development of environmental legislation on biodiversity protection and combating desertification, and, in particular, of standards that will facilitate conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems that are shared between countries or groups of countries, at their request.

##### **4.3 Sustainable Cities and Communities**

The OAS will take the following actions in these areas:

###### **a. Serve as a regional forum for:**

- ii) Holding Inter-American technical meetings and promoting dialogue on reducing the vulnerability of the social and economic infrastructure to the impacts of natural disasters and environmental hazards.

###### **c. Provide cooperation for:**

- ii) Supporting the planning and training needed to protect people and infrastructure from vulnerability to the impacts of natural disasters and environmental hazards, with a particular focus on water, health, electricity and transportation services, schools and housing, including the preparation of environmental impact studies and appropriate construction standards.

##### **4.4 Water Resources and Coastal Areas**

The OAS will play a leading role in helping countries to implement the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz in these areas. For this purpose, it will work in coordination with UNEP, the World Bank, the IDB and UNDP, and will take the following actions:

###### **a. Serve as a regional forum for:**

- v) Supporting mechanisms for inter-institutional dialogue and cooperation in the preparation by the member states of vulnerability profiles for small island states and threatened coastal and inland water systems.

###### **c. Provide cooperation for:**

- v) Executing multinational project and investment plans for the sustainable use of coastal resources, particularly in activities related to tourism development, poverty alleviation,

and the reduction of the vulnerability of communities and their infrastructure to natural hazards.

- vii) Taking into account climate change, identify mechanisms to assist the most vulnerable states, in particular island states and member countries with low-lying coastal areas, in their efforts to adapt to economic, social and environmental impacts and to reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards, including the use of inventories, dissemination of information, legislation, institutional strengthening and public awareness campaigns.

**11. Inter-American Dialogue for Disaster Reduction**  
**Dialogue I, Conclusions**  
**Panama, December, 1997**

**12. Hemispheric Congress on Disaster Reduction and Sustainable Development**  
**Act of Congress**  
**Miami, October, 1996**

**13. OEA/ General Assembly**  
**Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM)**  
**AG/RES. 1327 (XXV-O/95)**

Invites the Secretary General to present recommendations to the Permanent Council on the role the OAS should play in natural disasters and adopts the following revised Statutes for the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM). The primary objective of FONDEM is to support the political role of the OAS in matters pertaining to emergency aid, and to demonstrate the solidarity of the member states of the Organization by participating in the coordination of aid in the face of natural disasters in the Hemisphere. The Fund shall provide available social, humanitarian, material, technical, and financial aid, both in kind and in services, to any member state of the Organization that is threatened by, has suffered from, or is in an emergency situation caused by natural disasters. The Fund shall be made up of Voluntary contributions from the governments of the member states, permanent observer states, or other states, international organizations, foundations, nongovernmental entities, public or private enterprises, or individuals; and Financial resources approved by the General Assembly of the Organization charged against unused appropriations from previous biennia. The Secretary General is authorized to grant emergency aid of up to US\$25,000 per case from unused appropriations from previous biennia and shall immediately notify the Permanent Council thereof. The Secretary General of the Organization of American States shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Permanent Council with respect to the Fund and shall report to the Council on implementation of each decision. The Secretary shall also perform the following functions: Receive donors' contributions and establish in the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Permanent Council, the machinery and procedures required for the operation of the Fund; Receive requests for assistance submitted by affected member states, establish the admissibility of those requests, and present them to the Permanent Council for approval; Ask the member states and other entities for the contributions required by the Fund; Establish cooperative relations and coordinate resources and emergency plans with the United Nations Emergency Fund, the World Food Programme of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Pan American Health Organization, the League of Red Cross Societies, and other international and national institutions whose activities and experiences may further the best possible achievement of the Fund's objectives, and report to the Permanent Council thereon; Determine in each case the specific mechanisms for granting aid, with the urgency that the situation demands; and Keep separate books for the accounts of the Fund. An inter-American committee for emergency situations shall be established. It shall comprise the Chair of the Permanent Council, the Secretary General of the OAS, the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, and, in due course, the Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, or their respective representatives. The Secretary General shall request each member state to designate an official or agency to coordinate that country's participation in the Fund. Wherever possible, this official or agency shall be the same one entrusted with responsibility for plans to remedy national emergencies and for receiving external aid in these cases.

**14. First Summit of the Americas: Declaration of Principals.**  
**Miami, FI, U.S.A., 1994**

**Declaration of Principals.**

The elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas are committed to advance the prosperity, democratic values and institutions, and security of the Hemisphere. Although faced with differing development challenges, the Americas are united in pursuing prosperity through open markets, hemispheric integration, and sustainable development.

They also reiterate the firm adherence to the principles of international law purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Charter of the Organization of the American States (OAS). Also they recognize the heterogeneity and diversity of our resources and cultures, just as they are convinced that they can advance their shared interest and values by building strong partnerships.

#### **Action Plan.**

### **..... III. Eradicate Poverty and Discrimination in Our Hemisphere. .....**

#### **20. White Helmets- Emergency and Development Corps.**

The “White Helmets Initiative” is based on the conviction that a concerted international effort of developing and developed countries can facilitate the eradication of poverty and strengthen the humanitarian rapid response capability of the international community to emergency humanitarian, social and developmental needs. The countries of the Americas could pioneer this initiative through the creation of national corps of volunteers that could respond to calls from other countries in the region.

- 15. Inter-American Conference regarding the Reduction of Natural Disasters Declaration  
National Experiences, Preparatory Forum for the IDNDR World Conference  
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, March 21-24, 1994**
- 16. OAS/Inter-American Economic and Social Council  
Natural Disasters  
Resolution CIES/RES. (862/93)**
- 17. OAS/Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture  
Support for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction  
Resolution CIECC/RES. (862/93)**
- 18. OAS/Permanent Council  
Support for the Theme “Natural Disasters Reduction for Sustainable Development” of the World  
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day 1992  
Resolution CP/RES. 593 (922/92)**
- 19. A-54 Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance  
Adopted at Santiago de Chile, June 1991; Entry into force, October, 1996.  
Signed by four countries: Colombia, Nicaragua, Panamá y Perú.  
Ratified by three countries: Panamá, Perú y Uruguay.**

Request for and offers and acceptance of assistance from one state party to another shall be communicated via diplomatic channels or the National Coordination Authority, as the circumstances may warrant. Upon the occurrence of a disaster the assisting state shall consult with the assisted state to receive from a latter information on the kind of assistance considered most appropriate to provide to the populations stricken by the disaster. To facilitate assistance, a state party that accepts it shall promptly notify its competent national authorities and/or its National Coordinating Authority to extend the necessary facilities to the assisting state, in accordance with this Convention. This National Coordinating Authority will have some functions, this includes to transmit request for assistance and to receive offers from other states parties; to coordinate assistance within its national jurisdiction. Each state party shall inform the General Secretariat of the Organization of the American States, as promptly as possible, of the designation of its National Coordinating Authority. The chairman of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee of the Organization of the American States shall coordinate cooperation between the National Coordinating Authorities of the states parties and that Committee. Upon the occurrence of a disaster in a state party, when the first official contacts are being established between that state and the Chairman of the Inter-American

Emergency Aid Committee or his representative, the latter will offer the stricken state his services to alert the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Unless otherwise agreed, the overall direction, control, coordination and supervision of the assistance within its territory shall be the responsibility of the assisted state. When the assistance includes personnel, the assisting state, in consultation with the assisted state, shall designate the person who shall be responsible for the immediate operational supervision of the personnel and equipment provided. The designated person shall exercise such supervision in coordination with the appropriate authorities of the assisted state. The assisted state shall provide, to the extent of its capabilities, local facilities, and services for the proper and effective administration of the assistance, it also has to make best efforts to protect personnel, equipment, and materials brought into its territory by the assisting state. Transport vehicles, equipment, and supplies fully identify and sent by state parties for assistance purpose may enter, move about in, and leave the territory of assisted state. Also they may move across the territory of other states parties en route to where the assistance is to be provided, they shall be exempt from the payment of taxes, fees, and other charges. The restricted areas so designated by the assisted state of the transit state shall be respected. The assisted state shall have the right to designate the access routes and final destination of the transport vehicles, equipment, and supplies, also the transit state shall have the same right to designate the transport routes.

Personnel of the assisting state may enter, cross, and leave the territory of the assisted state or of the transit state party to this Convention, as necessary to carry out their mission. The assisted state shall endeavor to provide such support as the assistance personnel may require, the appropriate guidance and information, and if necessary translation and interpretation services. Each state party shall provide such personnel with the necessary immigration documents and facilities in accordance with its laws.

In the application of this Convention, the states parties shall respect any restricted areas so designated by the assisted state.

The assisted state waives any claim for loss or damage that could be brought against the assisting state or the assistance personnel as a result of the provision of assistance.

The assistance shall be provided at the expenses of the assisting state, without cost to the assisted state, except where these states agree otherwise.

## **20. OAS/Permanent Council**

### **Participation by the Organization of American States in the International Decade for Natural Disasters Reduction**

Resolution CP/RES. 546 (834/90)

Declares that the activities of the Organization of American States in the area of natural hazard management make a contribution to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Instruct the Secretary General of the OAS to inform the Secretary General of the United Nations on the past activities of the OAS and the program to be carried out in the area of natural hazard management and disaster relief. Encourage member States to make natural hazard management and disaster relief integral components of their socioeconomic development activities. Request member States to inform the Secretary General on the activities they are engaged, and to share their experience and know-how in natural hazard management and disaster relief through the General Secretariat, and also requests to consult with member States on the possibility of coordinating regional projects on the basis of national projects with similar purpose. Recommends that, as the budgetary situation permits, surplus resources of the Regular Fund be assigned to the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), and the external resources be sought for this Fund in order to straighten the Organization's capability for responding to request for emergency aid. To commit itself to an early conclusion of its work on the Draft Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Assistance in Cases of Disaster so the General Assembly may adopt that it as soon as possible.